

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
Tuesday, 5 January 2010
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Richard Duffy, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson and Commissioners Jane Becker, Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, and Eric Stange.
2. Review of minutes from December 1, 2009: Minutes from December were reviewed and accepted.
3. Communications Received:
 - a. Email from Commissioner Guthrie regarding 180-182 Medford Street, a property voted as “preferably preserved” at December 1, 2009 meeting, the proposed changes were reviewed in the field and it was determined that, as these would entail <25% of any applicable elevation, that jurisdiction would not apply. Building Department notified that permit could be issued to replace windows.
 - b. Ken Theriault, 248 Gray Street: less than 25%. Non- jurisdiction memo sent.
 - c. Myron Gildesgame, 8 Kensington Road: Less than 25%. No jurisdiction.
 - d. Comments sought by consultants for Verizon regarding placement of a communication tower in Belmont near Pleasant street exit of Route 2. This Commission declined comment, but has referred the matter to the Arlington Historic Districts Commission for comment, as proposed site is in view of properties in the Pleasant Street Historic District.
 - e. Email from Joan Roman, Town Webmaster, confirming that Commission meetings through June 2010 have been added to the calendar of meetings on town web site.
 - f. Selectman Clarissa Rowe, requesting participation by tis Commission at Battle Road Scenic Byway meeting to be held at Town Hall on Thursday evening, January 28.
 - g. Email 12/16/09 from Stephen Makowka, chairman of AHDC, regarding Parmenter School and Crosby School. Comments due to Planning Department by December 17; however, insufficient time was provided to respond.
 - h. 33-35 Amsden Street. Demolish garage. Not on Inventory.
 - i. Real estate agent inquiring if any interest in viewing a historic listing in Cambridge. Not pertinent to Commission ; no response required.
 - j. Received National Alliance of Preservation Commissions’ survey to be completed by February 1, 2010.
 - k. Received letter regarding changes to Route 2 at Alewife Brook Parkway.
 - l. Received letter regarding improving bicycle routes around Dallin School.

4. Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:
 - a. Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
 - b. Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – Nothing to report.
 - c. Arlington Historical Society (Meister) – Historical Scavenger Hunt on January 31, 2010 at Town Hall.
 - d. Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – Celebrates 40 years.
 - e. Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – No report.
 - f. Mill Brook Linear Park Study Committee (Robinson)-Nothing to report.
5. Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget – Purchase order for hearing notices to be submitted.
6. Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:
 - a. 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – Nothing to report.
 - b. 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Work in progress.
 - c. Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy –Nothing to report.
 - d. 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – No work.
 - e. 43-45 Massachusetts Ave.(Shapiro) 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.
 - f. 71 Walnut Street (Brown) 3/09 Guthrie- Nothing to report.
 - g. 53 Brattle Street (Slebodnick) 6/09 Guthrie- Nothing to report.
 - h. 6 Park Street (White) 12/09 Meister- Nothing to report.
 - i. 15 Oldham Road (Bayer/Cantor) 12/09 Stange- Nothing to report.
7. Continuing Projects
 - a. Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Porch work in progress.
 - b. Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Final report on alternatives for library wall and plantings completed.
 - c. Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
 - d. Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – Mr. Duffy looking into web mail account.
 - e. Historic House Markers: Duffy – Requests in process for 201 Pleasant Street built 1924(Mark Cantor) and 26 Franklin Street- Jeremiah Leary House (Melissa MacDonald)
 - f. Town Hall: Duffy –
 - g. Web Site: Stange –We now have a gmail account (arlhistcommission@gmail.com) for messages.

h. Fire alarm antenna installations: Schaefer- Inconspicuous.

8. Discussion and Hearing:

8:01 9 Fessenden Road with presenters: Attorney Robert Annesse, Suhail Oweis, Samuel Iweis, and Avo Asdourian.

Presentation:

- Discussed history of house
- Mentioned current condition and work plans- needs asbestos removal, electrical work, wood rot, new roof, removal of insulation due to asbestos, lead paint, stairs narrow and dangerous. To renovate the cost is out of the reach of current owners.
- Plan is to demolish building and rebuild.

Commissioners response:

Asked owners if they have thought about adding to the back of the house.

Commissioner Guthrie made a motion to declare that the house be preferentially preserved. Ms. Schaefer 2nd the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

9. Old Business:

10. New Business:

Adjourn at

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be February 2, 2010 at 7:45pm
For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.